

House Republican Press Release

January 28, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Labriola Introduces Legislation to Fund School Technology Program



State Representative David Labriola, R-Naugatuck, has introduced legislation to fund a state program providing technology wiring in public schools. House Bill 5184, An Act Concerning The Funding Of Educational Technology Grant Programs, has been introduced to the Legislature's Education Committee.

The bill would fully fund and expand the Educational Technology Grant Programs, which was established to provide funds for installing computer networking in schools. According to the non-partisan Office of Legislative Research (OLR), in 1997, the General Assembly first allocated bond funds to an educational technology grant program first created in 1986 to help schools upgrade their building infrastructure. Except for the largest cities, grants were awarded to school districts on a competitive basis for projects excluded from regular school construction grants.

Rep. Labriola noted that each of the towns in the 131st District, Oxford, Naugatuck and Southbury (as part of Region 15) have received funds from this program in recent years. According to state Department of Education (DOE) data, in 2003, Oxford received \$29,918, Naugatuck received \$32,904 and Region 15 received \$31,265. However, there was no funding for the program in the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year.

"We must ensure our students can compete in the workforce," said Rep. Labriola. "Providing necessary funding for technology in the classroom will help meet that goal."